

Safety Rules and Guidelines for Roadside Litter Removal

For Your Safety:

- View the “North Carolina Adopt-A-Highway Safety Training” and the “Colorado Meth Lab Waste Recognition” DVD's or online video prior to participating in a cleanup - you can view both videos from the Web site at www.ncdot.gov/~beautification.

All Volunteers Must:

- Wear a NCDOT approved orange safety vest.
- Wear light-colored clothing that covers arms and legs.
- Wear leather shoes or boots, gloves, a hat and safety glasses.
- Wear clothing that will not divert attention of motorists during cleanup activities. Wear clothing that will not impair vision or movement during cleanup activities.
- Park all vehicles clear of the roadway and on the same side of the road where volunteers are working.
- Carpool to the site to reduce number of vehicles.
- Be 12 years of age to participate in a cleanup.
- Furnish adequate supervision by one or more adults 21 years of age or older for groups that have participants 12-17 years of age.
- Pick up litter only during daylight hours.
- Not pick up trash on the road surface and shall stay off the road at least five feet from the pavement edge.
- Obey all safety rules and guidelines.
- Conduct a safety meeting for all participants prior to each cleanup and go over “Safety Rules and Guidelines for Volunteers” and “Safety Procedures for Litter Pickup” (see backside of this sheet).
- Work in small groups.
- Face oncoming traffic when picking up litter and look up often to ensure that no vehicle is encroaching your work area.
- Stay well clear of any construction.
- Stop work in inclement weather.
- During warm weather months, drink plenty of fluids – take breaks – avoid overexertion.
- During cold weather months, dress warmly with layered clothing.
- Be alert for snakes, stinging insects and poisonous plants.
- Avoid contact with noxious weeds and areas where herbicides were applied.
- Use proper lifting and bending techniques.

Volunteers Must Not:

- Use or possess illegal drugs or alcohol during a cleanup.
- Pick up trash on bridges, on overpasses or in tunnels.
- Pick up trash on a median.
- Pick up what appears to be hazardous material or any type of container with unknown contents. Notify your AAH coordinator or NCDOT county maintenance office if you encounter hazardous objects, holes, guide wires and other hidden obstacles in the ground.
- Attempt to squeeze bags to make room for more trash. Injuries from broken or jagged objects can result from this practice.

In Case of Emergency:

- Have an adequate first-aid kit immediately available.
- Know the route from the work area to the nearest hospital emergency room.
- Have transportation immediately available.

For the Safety of Department of Transportation Crews:

- Group the orange bags together and where practical place them at least eight feet from the side of the road to make the job of collecting bags easier and safer for our NCDOT employees.